Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2014

Chairman Mike Simpson
Subcommittee on Energy and
Water Development
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Marcy Kaptur
Subcommittee on Energy and
Water Development
2256 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur:

We are writing to ask for your continued support of the Water Power program within the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) at a level of $90 million in the Fiscal Year 2015 Energy and Water Development Appropriations legislation. These additional resources will support DOE's vision that fifteen percent of U.S. electricity demand will be met by 2030 with water power technologies.

The Water Power program supports leading-edge research, development, demonstration and deployment efforts for innovative marine hydrokinetic (MHK), hydropower and pumped storage technologies that could generate cost-effective renewable electricity from a wide range of water resources and improve the security and reliability of the electric grid. The program invests in high-risk, early-stage technologies that, due to market considerations, the private sector is unable to address on its own. Increased federal support will hasten deployment of advanced water power technologies and also give confidence to investors and help attract private capital.

Development of new water power technologies represents a substantial opportunity for the U.S. to lead the world in an emerging area of energy science and discovery and meet its increasing electricity needs with a clean source of energy that stimulates a broad range of job-creating industries. Expanded efforts to capture our nation's rich domestic water power resources through MHK and hydropower technologies could drive billions of dollars of investment in heavy industrial and maritime sectors, as well as in advanced electrical systems and materials common to many renewable technologies. Federal support stimulates private investments in the construction, manufacturing, engineering and environmental science sectors and strengthens the thousands of businesses that make up the U.S. industrial supply chain. The further development of these industries has the potential to employ a substantial skilled workforce.

Hydropower is the nation's most affordable and reliable renewable electricity resource. With 100 Gigawatts of installed capacity (including pumped storage), hydropower accounts for seven percent on average of all U.S. annual electricity generation, and it is the largest source of renewable electricity (representing 56 percent of all renewable energy generation in 2012). However, opportunities remain to significantly expand generation from this highly valuable, flexible and base load energy resource. The funds we are requesting will build upon years of investment to improve the energy and water use efficiency as well as the environmental

performance of turbines, reduce costs of new small hydropower and conduit applications, and promote hydropower's role in the integration of variable energy resources.

The establishment and nurturing of a U.S.-based MHK industry would secure our nation's place in developing offshore renewable energy systems, thereby ensuring that the U.S. is an exporter, not an importer, of these technologies. Unfortunately, the U.S. is falling behind in the race to commercialize and create the new jobs that will come with this emerging industry. Many countries, especially those in Europe, are committed to producing renewable energy from ocean currents, waves, tides and in-stream sources. Early funding support, along with development of full-scale MHK device testing centers (still unavailable here in the United States), demonstrates that the significant technological advances and competitive advantages in this industry are taking place in Europe and elsewhere. We urge your support and action to ensure that the U.S. will not have to depend on foreign suppliers for MHK devices and miss a significant opportunity to expand our economic competitiveness in this emerging renewable energy sector.

We understand the difficult choices that you face in these fiscally-challenging times. However, we believe commercialization of advanced technologies to harness our significant potential water power resources requires increased and targeted federal investments to augment research and development efforts already underway in the private sector. Just as the wind and solar industries have enjoyed substantial and ongoing federal funding support for over three decades (which has resulted in the rapid deployment and cost competitiveness of these technologies in recent years), the MHK and hydropower industries are requesting similar significant and sustained federal assistance to help private companies develop promising technologies that are on the verge of commercial viability.

The activities under the Water Power program represent a critical investment in our nation's energy future. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development support funding DOE's Water Power program at a level of $90 million for Fiscal Year 2015, with $50 million for MHK and $40 million for hydropower, to ensure this promising effort does not lose momentum. Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

Peter DeFazio
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Chellie Pingree
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